IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A recording apparatus configured to generate an index file for each content file to be recorded to a recording medium, the index file associating attribute information allocated to each content file with real data of said each content file, and configured to record the generated index file to the recording medium, the apparatus comprising:

an information adding unit configured to generate a flag indicating a recording state of a content file to be recorded to the recording medium and configured to add the flag to the attribute information,

wherein the information adding unit is further configured to continuously provide entry areas in which a [[the]] flag indicating invalidity is set in a physical area in which the index file can be continuously recorded, and to write invalid data in the entry areas before said each content file is recorded first to the recording medium.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The recording apparatus of claim 1, wherein the physical area includes all physical areas in which the index file can be continuously recorded.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The recording apparatus of claim 1,

wherein the information adding unit is further configured to search the recording medium for a free area in which the index file can be continuously recorded in accordance with the recording state of said each content file with respect to the recording medium, to add an entry area in which the flag indicating invalidity is set in the free area thus searched for, and to write invalid data in the added entry area.

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Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The recording apparatus of claim 3, wherein the information adding unit is configured to newly record the index file, having the attribute information to which the flag indicating a recording state of a content file to be recorded to the recording medium is added, to the added entry area.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A recording method for generating an index file for each content file to be recorded to a recording medium, the method comprising:

associating attribute information allocated to each content file with real data of said each content file, and recording the generated index file to the recording medium;

generating a flag indicating a recording state of a content file to be recorded to the recording medium and adding the flag to the attribute information;

continuously providing entry areas in which [[the]] a flag indicating invalidity is set in a physical area in which the index file can be continuously recorded; and

writing invalid data in the entry areas before said each content file is recorded first to the recording medium.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The recording method of claim 5, wherein the physical area includes all physical areas in which the index file can be continuously recorded.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The recording method of claim 5, comprising:

searching the recording medium for a free area in which the index file can be continuously recorded in accordance with the recording state of said each content file with respect to the recording medium;

adding an entry area in which the flag indicating invalidity is set in the free area thus searched for; and

writing invalid data in the added entry area.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The recording method of claim 7, comprising:

recording the index file, having the attribute information to which the flag indicating a recording state of a content file to be recorded to the recording medium is added, to the added entry area.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The recording apparatus of claim 1,

wherein the information adding unit is further configured to extract from the index file the entry areas in which the flag indicating invalidity is set and is configured to newly register a content index file by resetting the flag in the extracted entry area as a valid flag.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The recording apparatus of claim 1,

wherein the entry areas in which the flag indicating invalidity are set are property entries to which entry numbers are assigned;

the information adding unit is further configured to continuously provide other entry areas corresponding to the entry numbers for each kind of the attribute information and to write invalid data in the property areas and the other entry areas before said each content file is recorded first to the recording medium.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The recording apparatus of claim 10, wherein the information adding unit is further configured to continuously provide the entry areas in all physical areas in which the index file can be continuously recorded.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The recording apparatus of claim 11,

wherein the information adding unit is further configured to extract the property entry

areas in which the flag indicating invalidity is set and the other entry areas corresponding to

the entry numbers from the index file, and to newly register a content index file by resetting

the flag in the property extracted entry area as a valid flag.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The recording apparatus of claim 12,

wherein the information adding unit is further configured to search the recording

medium for a free area in which the index file can be continuously recorded in accordance

with the recording state of said each content file with respect to the recording medium, to add

a property entry area in which the flag indicating invalidity is set and the other entry area in

the free area searched for, and to write an invalid data in the added property entry area and

the added other entry area corresponding to the entry number of the added property entry

area.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 5, comprising:

extracting from the index file the entry areas in which the flag indicating invalidity is

set from the index file; and

newly registering a content index file by resetting the flag in the extracted entry area

as a valid flag.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 5, comprising:

providing other entry areas corresponding to entry numbers for each kind of the

attribute information; and

writing an invalid data in the property areas and the other entry areas before said each

content file is recorded first to the recording medium,

wherein the entry areas in which the flag indicating invalidity are set are property

entries to which the entry numbers are assigned.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 15, comprising:

providing the entry areas in all physical areas in which the index file can be

continuously recorded.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 16, comprising:

extracting the property entry areas in which the flag indicating invalidity is set and the

other entry areas corresponding to the entry numbers from the index file; and

newly registering a content index file by resetting the flag in the property extracted

entry area as a valid flag.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 17, comprising:

searching the recording medium for a free area in which the index file can be

continuously recorded in accordance with the recording state of said each content file with

respect to the recording medium;

adding a property entry area in which the flag indicating invalidity is set and the other

entry area in the free area searched for; and

writing an invalid data in the added property entry area and the added other entry area

corresponding to the entry number of the added property entry area.